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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

- 1 SECTION 1. Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005,  
2 established in the University of Hawaii a temporary early  
3 childhood education task force to:
- 4 (1) Propose an overall plan to increase access to early  
5 childhood education opportunities for families, which  
6 may include incentives, resource development, the need  
7 for and availability of infrastructure, and possible  
8 funding sources;
- 9 (2) Develop plans and identify resources needed to improve  
10 the quality and services of early childhood learning  
11 programs;
- 12 (3) Design proposals to support the professional  
13 development of early childhood education staff;
- 14 (4) Create an implementation plan to motivate and promote  
15 the value of and participation in early childhood  
16 learning opportunities for parents and the general  
17 public, including the business community; and



1 (5) Recommend to the legislature a conceptual framework,  
2 along with proposals for policies and legislation  
3 necessary to facilitate and monitor the implementation  
4 of such a framework.

5 In December 2005, the temporary early childhood education  
6 task force submitted its report to the legislature. The purpose  
7 of this Act is to implement the recommendations of the temporary  
8 early childhood education task force.

9 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
10 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
11 as follows:

12 "CHAPTER

13 OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

14 § -1 Office of early learning; established; board. (a)  
15 There is established the office of early learning, which shall  
16 be a body corporate and a public instrumentality of the State,  
17 for the purposes of implementing this chapter. The office of  
18 early learning shall be placed within the department of  
19 education for administrative purposes and staffed by an  
20 executive director and appropriate staff.

21 The office of early learning shall develop, implement, and  
22 provide for the sustainability of a coherent, comprehensive



1 early learning system that maximizes public and private  
2 resources to provide early learning opportunities for all young  
3 children in the State up to age five.

4 (b) There is established the early learning policy board  
5 to govern the office of early learning, which shall be placed  
6 within the department for administrative purposes. The board  
7 shall be composed of members from the private and public sectors  
8 who shall be charged with addressing the vision, mission, goals,  
9 and guiding principles of Hawaii's early childhood learning  
10 system conceptual framework. The governor shall appoint the  
11 members of the board pursuant to section 26-34; provided that:

- 12 (1) Membership on the board shall not exceed twenty;
- 13 (2) The private sector shall be broadly represented and  
14 membership representing the private sector shall not  
15 be less than fifteen;
- 16 (3) The governor shall:
- 17 (A) Appoint members from a list of nominees submitted  
18 from the temporary early childhood education task  
19 force as identified in section 2(d) of Act 151,  
20 Session Laws of Hawaii 2005;



- 1 (B) Determine which board members shall serve  
2 ex-officio and whether they shall be voting or  
3 nonvoting members;
- 4 (C) Consider for membership additional individuals  
5 who do not represent organizations currently  
6 represented by members of the temporary early  
7 childhood education task force; and
- 8 (D) Appoint the members of the board no later than  
9 December 31, 2006; and
- 10 (4) The members of the temporary early childhood education  
11 task force shall act as a transitional board of  
12 directors until the governor appoints the permanent  
13 members of the board of directors pursuant to  
14 paragraph (3).
- 15 (c) The board shall select an executive director and  
16 appoint from its members a chairperson, vice chairperson,  
17 secretary, treasurer, and any other officers that the board may  
18 deem necessary or desirable to carry out its functions.
- 19 (d) The board shall obtain input from stakeholders, early  
20 education professionals, and other individuals as necessary.



1 (e) Members shall serve without compensation, but may be  
2 reimbursed for necessary expenses, including travel expenses,  
3 incurred in the performance of their duties.

4 § -2 **Powers and duties.** The office of early learning  
5 shall:

- 6 (1) Set standards, desired outcomes, and systems to  
7 evaluate early education programs;
- 8 (2) Ensure a statewide integrated early childhood system;
- 9 (3) Increase the quality of education through access to  
10 education and training of professionals;
- 11 (4) Provide funding for early childhood education programs  
12 and for the implementation of pilot programs as  
13 necessary; and
- 14 (5) Develop an incremental implementation and financing  
15 plan for Hawaii's early learning system.
- 16 (6) Mandate cross-sector and interdepartmental  
17 collaboration;
- 18 (7) Accept and expend appropriations and any other state  
19 funding to support the operations of the office of  
20 early learning and to implement priorities and  
21 standards to help build and strengthen programs while  
22 enhancing their quality and capacity;

- 1 (8) Develop a plan to ensure equal voluntary access to
- 2 high quality early learning experiences for all
- 3 children aged four;
- 4 (9) Establish a mechanism to ensure the recruitment and
- 5 retention of a high quality workforce for early
- 6 learning programs, and to address the need for an
- 7 early childhood education compensation plan, access to
- 8 higher education and community-based training, and
- 9 technical assistance and supports including
- 10 professional development counseling and scholarships;
- 11 and
- 12 (10) Promote the importance of early learning to families,
- 13 policymakers, and the general public.

14 § -3 **Early learning community councils.** (a) The office  
15 of early learning shall establish four early learning community  
16 councils in the counties of Oahu, Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.  
17 Community councils shall initiate and facilitate community  
18 representation so that the needs and plans of each community are  
19 reflected and represented in the plans of the respective  
20 community councils. These councils shall be supported by an  
21 early learning liaison responsible for determining community

1 needs and developing plans that provide a variety and breadth of  
2 programs that families desire.

3 Each community council shall have at least one  
4 representative from each of the following: the departments of  
5 education; health; and human services; each community; an  
6 organization representing parents with young children; a  
7 provider of early education and care services; a private agency  
8 concerned with health, human services, or education; the  
9 business community; and local government.

10 (b) The duties of the early learning community councils  
11 shall be to:

- 12 (1) Collect and report data;
- 13 (2) Identify outcomes and indicators;
- 14 (3) Set strategic priorities;
- 15 (4) Coordinate community programs and services;
- 16 (5) Plan and budget to align programs with community  
17 strategic priorities;
- 18 (6) Assess performance of the community in relation to  
19 community and system strategic priorities; and
- 20 (7) Coordinate interagency programs and services including  
21 public awareness, technical assistance to providers,

1 leadership and professional development, and one-stop  
2 services for financial aid.

3 § -4 **Nonprofit organization; contract.** The office of  
4 early learning may contract with a tax-exempt nonprofit early  
5 education organization that qualifies as such under section  
6 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, to assist in its duties.

7 § -5 **Workforce and professional development for early**  
8 **childhood education.** The office of early learning shall  
9 establish a mechanism to accomplish the following:

- 10 (1) Develop an early childhood education compensation plan  
11 for the State;
- 12 (2) Develop and implement a plan to support the  
13 recruitment and retention of the early childhood  
14 workforce for all early learning settings;
- 15 (3) Develop and implement a plan to increase access to  
16 higher education and community-based training;
- 17 (4) Conduct ongoing needs assessment and analysis of  
18 community early learning programs staffing needs;
- 19 (5) Plan and provide for community-specific implementation  
20 of recruitment and retention strategies with a  
21 particular focus on creating career and professional  
22 development counseling and support statewide;





1 (6) Advocate for and convene partners to ensure increased  
2 access to a broad array of early learning  
3 community-based and higher education options;

4 (7) Provide technical assistance to the counties to  
5 identify the needs and secure funding to expand  
6 workforce and professional development opportunities  
7 within their communities; and

8 (8) Collaborate with the department of education and the  
9 teacher education coordinating council.

10 § -6 **Pilot program.** (a) The office of early learning  
11 shall conduct and oversee a five-year pilot program that shall  
12 include the following elements:

13 (1) A summer transition program for children entering  
14 kindergarten or junior kindergarten;

15 (2) Transition and professional development training for  
16 elementary school staff;

17 (3) Parenting, caregiver, and family childcare education  
18 with social and emotional training available to all  
19 community members year-round;

20 (4) Play and learn group and parent participation  
21 preschool programs that shall provide early childhood

1 experiences and incorporate family education and  
 2 support services; and  
 3 (5) Model preschool based on standards established by the  
 4 office of early learning.

5 (b) The five-year pilot study shall cover five successive  
 6 entering classes of students at one school in each county, and  
 7 shall maintain a system of data collection tied directly to  
 8 goals, standards, and outcomes.

9 (c) The pilot program shall be overseen administratively  
 10 by the office of early learning.

11 (d) The office of early learning shall provide an annual  
 12 report to the legislature on the pilot program findings and  
 13 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later  
 14 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
 15 of 2007, and each year thereafter."

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
 18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for  
 19 the operation of the office of early learning and to contract  
 20 with a nonprofit organization pursuant to this Act.

21 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
 22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,400,000 or so much

1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, which  
2 represents an allocation of \$600,000 to the school in each  
3 county in which the pilot program shall be implemented.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
5 of education for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**Report Title:**

Early Childhood Education

**Description:**

Creates office of early learning within DOE. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

